

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills
Executive Director, Environment & Economy**

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	6 June 2016
Subject:	County Matter Application - S37/0354/16

Summary:

Planning permission is sought by Moor Bio-Energy Ltd (Agent: Cornerstone Planning Ltd) for the erection of a 4MW biogas to grid anaerobic digestion plant comprising of 3 digestate tanks, 3 silage clamps, technical operations building, storage lagoons, digestate storage lagoon, surface water attenuation lagoon, Combined Heat and Power unit (CHP), gas flare, gas upgrading system (GUS), gas cooling grid, gas storage tanks, paddle dryer and ancillary equipment at Land east of A1, Gonerby Moor, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The proposed development would process up to 55,000 tonnes of mixed feedstock per annum, comprising approximately 60% farm waste (manures and slurries) and 40% purpose grown energy crops. The key issues to be considered in relation to this application are the principle of the development in this location, landscape and visual impacts, noise and odour impacts, highways, flood risk, nature conservation and the historic environment.

Further information has been submitted throughout the course of assessing this application which has demonstrated that, subject to the imposition of appropriately worded conditions, the proposed development would not have any unacceptable or significant adverse impacts on the surrounding environment, highway or the amenity of adjacent land users.

Recommendation:

Following consideration of the relevant development plan policies and comments received through consultation and publicity it is recommended that conditional planning permission be granted.

The Application

1. Planning permission is sought for the erection of a 4MW biogas to grid anaerobic digestion plant comprising of two digester tanks, one post digestate tank, silage clamps, technical operations building, digestate storage lagoon, surface water attenuation lagoon, Combined Heat and Power unit (CHP), gas flare, gas upgrading system (GUS), gas cooling grid, gas storage tanks,

paddle dryer and ancillary equipment at land east of the A1, Gonerby Moor, Grantham Lincolnshire.

2. The facility and process would convert 55,000 tonnes of locally sourced mixed feedstocks, consisting of approximately 60% farm waste (e.g. manures and slurries) and 40% biomass/crops (e.g. maize and rye crops) into biogas and digestate/bio-fertiliser. The biogas produced would, in part, be utilised by the site's CHP plant and therefore used to power the site with the excess being injected directly into the local National Grid gas network for use elsewhere. The applicant states that the plant would produce up to 35,000MWh of renewable energy from the proposed feedstocks which is enough energy to meet the needs of around 2,200 homes. The infrastructure required to connect the facility to the existing National Grid gas network is proposed to be installed under permitted development rights granted by Schedule 2, Part 15, Class A (Gas Transporters) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.
3. The imported waste element would comprise only of farm wastes. All imported materials would be sourced from farms within a 10 mile radius of the site and the resultant digestate/bio-fertiliser produced would be returned for use on local farms, again within a 10 mile radius of the site.
4. The site including access road would cover an area of 5.54 hectares. The main erections and equipment would be constructed to the dimensions stated below:

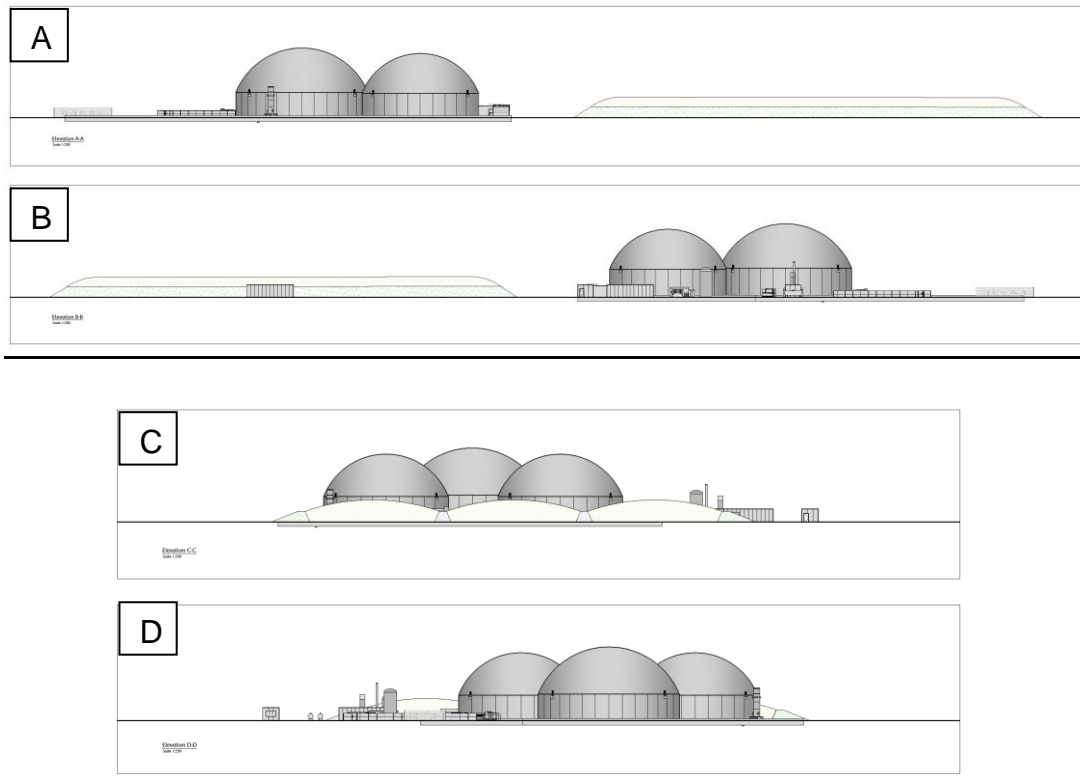
Erection/equipment and number.	Height in metres above ground level (m)	Diameter in metres (m)	Length in metres (m)	Width in metres (m)
Domed Digester Tanks (x2)	17.4	30.0	-	-
Domed Post Digester Tank	18.8	34.0	-	-
Digestate Storage Area	3.0	-	12.0	10.0
CHP unit incl. Stack	8.0	-	15.0	4.0
Flare incl. base	9.0	-	5.0	5.0
Site Office (x2)	3.2	-	12.0	4.0
Weighbridge Office	3.2	-	12.0	4.0
Weighbridge	-	-	15.5	3.5
Technical Building excl. safety rail superstructure	3.0	-	15.0	6.0
Silage Clamps (x3)	5.0	-	120.0	30.0
Feed Hopper	4.25	-	28.6	4.1
Gas Upgrade Compound	1.80	-	32.0	25.0
Gas Cooling Grid	2.2	-	14.0	4.0
Economiser & input system	3.85	-	14.3	3.4
Mississippi Paddle Dryer	7.6	-	15.0	12.0
Propane Tank Enclosure (holding 5 tanks)	2.5	-	15.0	10.0
Oil Tanks (x2) mounted on concrete area	1.85	-	5.0	5.0
Surface Water Attenuation Pond	-	-	45.0	33.5

Digestate Storage Lagoon	-	-	84.0	37.0
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5. The site would be laid out as illustrated in the following site plan (Plan 1) with the elevations illustrated in (Plan 2):



Plan 1 – Site Layout



Plan 2 – Site Elevation from A Northwest, B South East, C Southwest and D North East

The Process

6. The crops and farm wastes (e.g. strawed and chipped farm yard manures) would be ensiled within three purpose built silage clamps to ensure that there would be a steady stream of feedstock throughout the year. In order to minimise potential odours, a maximum of 300 tonnes of farm yard manures would be stored on the site at any one time and the clamps would be covered using protective sheeting. The protective sheeting would not only form an airtight layer to minimise odour emissions but also ensure that the silage process can complete and preserve the feedstock throughout the year. The protective sheeting would be used to cover the feedstocks at all times except when materials are being deposited or removed for use.
7. The feedstocks would be transferred from the silage clamps using a tractor and grab and transported to the feed hopper and economiser and input system which connects to the two main digester tanks. The anaerobic digestion process comprises of several different stages but in all cases works by converting readily available carbon in the feedstock materials so as to produce biogas (mainly methane and carbon dioxide). Once processed by the main digestion tanks the digestate would be transferred to the post-digester tank. The digestate, the solid by-product, would be subject to further drying utilising the Mississippi Paddle Dryer and the final product would be held in the Digestate Storage Area. The liquid fraction of the digestate would be stored in a covered lagoon, where it would be temporarily held prior to being transported off-site for use as a bio-fertiliser on local agricultural land.

8. The biogas produced during the digestion process would be transferred to gas storage tanks and would be further processed within the Gas Upgrading System (GUS) and Gas cooling grid prior to its injection into the National Grid.
9. The control units necessary to monitor and manage the digestion process would be housed within the Technical building.
10. The plant would be an automated operation and would operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (except during maintenance periods). The delivery of energy crops during the harvesting periods would vary from 10 hours to 16 hours a day, seven days a week in line with other agricultural practices. Outside of these periods, the transport movements associated with the delivery and export of final digestate would be significantly reduced.

Ancillary Structures and Operations

11. The Combined Heat and Power Unit (CHP) would utilise some of the biogas produced to provide electrical power to operate the plant on site. Initially however, it would be necessary to import power and as a consequence a number of installations relating to power supply would be required which include an emergency backup generator, oil tank, two substations and a transformer.
12. A number of other ancillary structures/buildings would also be provided within the site which includes two office/staff units and a weighbridge and weighbridge cabin.

Site Access

13. The site access is a private road that is a remnant of the old A1 Great North Road which extends off the B1174 and runs adjacent to the southbound Gonerby Moor slip road of the A1. The proposed internal haul route would be constructed of concrete and would run for a distance of approximately 500 metres into the heart of the proposed development site. Access to the internal structures would be over a combination of concrete aprons and compacted hardcore.

Products and Employment

14. The applicant states that the plant would produce biogas which would have an equivalent energy output of up to 35,000MWh which is sufficient to serve 2,200 homes. The plant would also produce a quality digestate bio-fertiliser in both solid and liquid form which can be used as an alternative to chemical fertilisers.
15. In terms of employment, the site would directly employ two on-site permanent employees and periodically the site would be visited by specialist maintenance engineers. During the construction and commissioning period, a

number of jobs would also be created which would indirectly support the local economy.

Environmental Considerations

16. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 a screening opinion has been carried out which concluded that the proposed development is not EIA development and therefore need not be supported by an Environmental Statement. However, given the nature of the proposed development a series of detailed technical assessments and reports have been carried out in support of the application which include the following:

- Design and Access/Planning Statement
- Proposed Landscaping Scheme
- Ecological Appraisal Report
- Odour Assessment
- Air Quality Assessment
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Transport Statement
- Landscape and Visual Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Archaeological Assessments (inc. Desk Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey, Trenching Programme and Interim Statement)

17. A brief outline of the findings of these various assessments is set out below.

Landscape & Visual Assessment and Landscaping

18. A Landscape and Visual Assessment has been undertaken in support of the application and this acknowledges that the development of the site would change the immediate character of the site itself. The surrounding area is however heavily influenced by road and other infrastructure which exists in the locality and these are stated as already creating distracting elements. Whilst it is accepted that the domes of the digestion tanks cannot be hidden from view measures have been proposed to soften their impact which includes the use of natural colours and arranging the site in such a way that the lower level buildings are screened from view. Additional soft-landscaping is also proposed to be carried out as part of the development. New trees are to be planted in the existing gaps/hedgerows along the northern, southern and western boundaries of the site. Any remaining gaps would be infilled with native hedgerow plants. The eastern boundary of the site would also be planted with a new double row native hedge interspersed with native trees.

Ecology

19. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey has been undertaken and this assesses the likely presence or absence of protected species and evaluates the habitats present within the site. The report confirms that the proposal site

does not contain any designated sites of nature conservation value although it does lie within the potential impact zone of the Allington Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The SSSI is designated for its grasslands and hedgerows which are species-rich and managed in a traditional way, however, it is located approximately 1.45 kilometres to the south-west of the proposal site and separated by the A1. The survey also confirms that there is no or little evidence of protected species being present within the site and overall the site itself, being an arable field, is considered to be of low ecological value.

20. Notwithstanding the above, the report recommends that a series of best practice avoidance and mitigation measures be implemented as part of the development, particularly during the site construction works, as these would minimise any impacts on any species which may be present in the wider area. The report also makes recommendations in respect of measures that could be undertaken in order to provide ecological enhancements within and around the development which includes additional tree and hedgerow planting and the provision of bat roost and bird nesting boxes on trees bordering the site.

Odour and Air Quality

21. An odour assessment has been carried out given that there would be a number of potential odour sources associated with the development in particular in relation to the proposed storage and handling of the feedstocks. The report concludes that the predicted odour concentrations would be below the relevant EA odour benchmark level and therefore predicted impacts on identified sensitive receptors would be negligible. The overall odour effects as a result of the proposed development are therefore concluded as not being significant.
22. An Air Quality Assessment has also been carried out and this has been conducted in accordance with Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (2009). Particular consideration was given to potential air quality impacts as a result of the combustion products released from the CHP plant. The results of the assessment indicate that the operation of the facility is not predicted to result in exceedances of the any relevant air quality standards at any location within the vicinity of the site and therefore concludes that the potential impacts would not be significant.

Noise

23. A Noise Impact Assessment has been carried out which has been conducted in line with BS4142:2014 'Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound'. The assessment identifies the key noise sources associated with the development and determines their potential impact upon the closest noise-sensitive residential receptors. The assessment concludes that the calculated rating levels for both day-time and night-time fall below the average measured background noise levels and therefore the impacts from the development would be classed as less than 'low impact' on identified sensitive receptors.

Traffic

24. The Transport Statement considers the transport-related issues relevant to the proposed development and indicates that traffic movements associated with the facility would largely be associated with the delivery of feedstocks and export of final digestate. As some of the proposed feedstocks comprise of crops which would be harvested during certain times of the year, the number of traffic movements associated with the site would fluctuate.
25. The assessment indicates that during a three week period of the year the peak traffic generation would equate to a two-way traffic flow of around 60 vehicle movements per day. During a further six week period the development would generate a two-way traffic flow of around 49 vehicle movements per day and outside of these harvesting periods the site would generate a two-way traffic flow of around 22 vehicle movements per day. A detailed breakdown of the predicted daily traffic movements is set out below:

Activity	June/July Harvesting Period (Rye – 3 weeks)		September/October Harvesting Period (Maize – 3 weeks)		Non-Harvesting Period (43 weeks)	
	Car/Van	HCV	Car/Van	HCV	Car/Van	HCV
Staff	6	0	6	0	6	0
Servicing and Maintenance	2	0	2	0	2	0
Rye Delivery	0	38	0	0	0	0
Maize Delivery	0	0	0	26	0	0
Strawed & Chipped Manure	0	7	0	7	0	7
Liquid Fertiliser Transport	0	5	0	5	0	5
Solid Fertiliser Transport	0	3	0	3	0	3
Totals	8	52	8	41	8	14
Overall Total	60		49		22	

26. The assessment concludes that even during its peak the site would therefore generate around six vehicle movements per hour and consequently it is stated that the development would not have a detrimental impact on the operation of the local highway network either in terms of capacity or in terms of highway safety.

Flood Risk and Surface Water Management

27. The site lies within Flood Zone 1 and therefore is classed as being of the lowest risk and probability of flooding from main rivers or the sea. However, the Environment Agency's Surface Water Flooding Maps do indicate that the site is at risk of surface water flooding from a drainage ditch that runs along the northern boundary of the site and the degree of risk differs from very low to high risk in different areas across the site. The area of highest risk is therefore identified as being that in the north-western corner of the site which is where the sites surface water attenuation lagoon is proposed to be sited.
28. The proposed development would increase hardstanding areas which would create an increase in the current volume of surface water run-off from the site. Surface waters are therefore proposed to be managed on-site using a surface water attenuation lagoon and this would be used to temporarily store the waters prior to them being discharged into the adjacent Toll Bar Drain at a controlled rate of 16.3l/s/ha. Details of the proposed surface water drainage scheme and attenuation lagoon have been provided as part of the application.
29. The Flood Risk Assessment concludes that the development is acceptable within Flood Zone 1 and that the surface water drainage proposals would ensure that the development would not be at risk of flood or give rise to flooding off-site.

Archaeology

30. The application was supported by an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment that recommended a geophysical survey of the site also be carried out. The geophysical survey identified a number of features and so further investigations were recommended comprising of targeted trenching. The targeted trenching has also been completed and an interim statement has reported archaeological features being present within the site and locality.

Site and Surroundings

31. The application site is currently in use as an agricultural field, of DEFRA Land Classification Grade 3b, to the east of the A1 Southbound slip road giving access to Gonerby Moor Retail. The village of Great Gonerby is approximately 2.5 kilometres to the south east of the site with the town of Grantham beyond. The access road to the site is located off the route of the old A1(Great North Road) which is no longer maintained at public expense and is separated from the new route of the A1 by a wooden post and rail fence standing approximately 1.5 metres in height.
32. The south western boundary of the site is within the agricultural field and is mainly screened from distant views by the Bees' Gorse (Photograph 1) coppice of mature native trees approximately 130.0 metres and the mature planted hedge separating the field from a Motorcross venue. Further to the south west of the site is an agricultural contractor and agricultural related industrial complex of buildings and workshops. The Motorcross venue,

agricultural contractor and industrial complex will share the access to the public highway with the proposed development using the remnant of the redundant A1 (Great North Road) onto the B1174.



Photograph 1 – Bees' Gorse

33. The north-western and south-western boundaries are continuous planted hedges of native species also interspersed by mature native deciduous trees this hedge continues along the north western boundary of the access road from the field gate. The site and surroundings are flat arable fields and separated by either planted hedges or drainage ditches. To the north approximately 700 metres distant is the route of Green Lane. Approximately 850 metres to the west is the nearest residential property which is located between a 24 hour service station adjacent to the southbound carriageway of the A1 and a large cold store complex and logistics compound on Toll Bar Road, to the south east of this road is an engineering works with external storage and small factory and single wind turbine (Photograph 2). To the east and approximately 1 kilometre from the site is a leisure facility with lodges and fishing lakes. The village of Marston is approximately 5 kilometres to the north accessed via Toll Bar Road.



Photograph 2 – Views from North East corner of proposed site towards Toll Bar Road.

34. The north-east boundary of the field is defined by the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board maintained 'Toll Bar Drain' (Photograph 3) along which is a sparsely planted hedge of native species and interspersed by mature native deciduous trees.



Photograph 3 – Toll Bar Drain

Main Planning Considerations

National Guidance

35. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It is a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications. In assessing and determining development proposals, Local Planning Authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The main policies/statements set out in the NPPF which are relevant to this proposal are as follows (summarised):

Paragraph 14 states that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and therefore proposals that accord with the development plan should be approved (unless material considerations indicate otherwise).

Paragraph 17 sets out 12 core land-use planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking.

Paragraph 98 supports small-scale renewable and low carbon energy generation projects and states that applicants need not demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, recognising that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. It states that applications should be approved if impacts are (or can be made) acceptable.

Paragraphs 99 to 103 seek to ensure that flood risk is not increased as a result of development, either on-site or off-site, and directs development to those areas with the lowest risk of flooding wherever possible.

Paragraph 109 seeks to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, including through the prevention of pollution.

Paragraph 112 directs local authorities to take account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Paragraph 113 requires local authorities to consider the importance of designated sites and protected wildlife.

Paragraph 118 seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Paragraph 120 seeks to protect general amenities.

Paragraph 122 states that the focus should be whether, the development itself is an acceptable use of the land and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves where these are subject to approval under pollution control regimes.

Paragraph 123 seeks to prevent adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of noise pollution.

Paragraph 128 requires that the significance of heritage assets is taken into consideration, including any impacts on their setting.

Paragraphs 186 & 187 state that local planning authorities should approach decision-taking in a positive way to foster the delivery of sustainable development and should look for solutions rather than problems, and decision-takers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible. Local planning authorities should work proactively with the applicant to secure developments that improve the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Paragraph 206 states that planning conditions should only be imposed where they are necessary, relevant to planning and to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects.

Paragraph 215 states that 12 months after the publication of the NPPF (2012) due weight should be given to relevant policies in existing plans according to their degree of consistency with the Framework, with the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given. This is of relevance with regard to the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2016) and South Kesteven Core Strategy (2010).

36. National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (October 2014) is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF. Appendix B sets out specific locational and environmental and amenity criteria to consider when assessing waste management proposals including protection of water quality and flood risk management, landscape and visual impacts, nature conservation, conserving the historic environment, traffic and access, odour and noise.

Local Plan Context

37. Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (CSDMP) of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (June 2016)

This document sets out the key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County up to 2031. It also sets out the development management policies against which planning applications for minerals and waste development will be considered. The key policies of relevance in this case are:

Policy W1 (Future requirements for new waste facilities) directs the County Council, through the Sites Allocation document, identify location for a range of new or extended waste management facilities within Lincolnshire where these are necessary to meet the predicted capacity gaps for waste arisings in the County.

Policy W3 (Spatial Strategy for New Waste Facilities) states that proposals for new waste facilities, including extensions to existing waste facilities, will be permitted in and around the following main urban areas as indicated on the key diagram subject to the criteria of Policy W4:

- Lincoln;
- Boston;
- Grantham;
- Spalding;
- Bourne;
- Gainsborough;
- Louth;
- Skegness;
- Sleaford; and
- Stamford.

Proposals for new waste facilities, outside the above areas will only be permitted where they are:

- biological treatment of waste including anaerobic digestion (Policy W5);
- landfilling of waste (Policy W6);
- small scale waste facilities (Policy W7);
- treatment of waste water and sewage (Policy W9).

Proposals for large extensions to existing facilities, outside of the above areas will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they meet an identified waste management need, are well located to the arisings of the waste it would manage and are on or close to an A class road and meet the criteria of Policy W4.

Policy W5 (Biological Treatment of Waste Including Anaerobic Digestion and Open-Air Composting) states that planning permission will be granted for anaerobic digestion, open air composting, and other forms of biological treatment of waste outside those areas specified in Policy W3 provided that proposals accord with all relevant Development Management Policies set out in the Plan; where they would be located at a suitable “stand-off” distance from any sensitive receptors; and where they would be located on either:

- land which constitutes previously developed and/or contaminated land, existing or planned industrial/employment land, or redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages; or
- land associated with an existing agricultural, livestock, food processing or waste management use where it has been demonstrated that there are close links with that use.

Policy DM1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development) states that when considering development proposals, the County Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will

always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Policy DM2 (Climate Change) directs applicants that proposals for minerals and waste management developments should address the following matters where applicable:

Minerals and Waste

- Identify locations which reduce distances travelled by HGVs in the supply of minerals and the treatment of waste, unless other environmental/ sustainability and, for minerals, geological considerations override this aim.

Waste

- Implement the Waste Hierarchy, and in particular reduce waste to landfill;
- Identify locations suitable for renewable energy generation;
- Encourage carbon reduction/capture measures to be implemented where appropriate.

Policy DM3 (Quality of Life and Amenity) directs planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development provided that it does not generate unacceptable adverse impacts arising to occupants of nearby dwellings and other sensitive receptors.

Policy DM4 (Historic Environment) seeks to protect heritage assets and their settings and ensure the impacts are fully assessed.

Policy DM6 (Impact on Landscape and Townscape) states that planning permission will be granted provided, that due regard has been given to the likely impact of the proposed development on landscape and townscape, including landscape character. If necessary, additional design, landscaping, planting and screening will be required.

Policy DM9 (Local Sites of Biodiversity Conservation Value) seeks to protect locally designated sites and habitats.

Policy DM12 (Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land) seeks to protect such land and only allows waste development on the best and most versatile agricultural land where no reasonable alternative exists.

Policy DM13 (Sustainable Transport Movements) states that proposals should seek to minimise road transport and seek to maximise where possible the use of the most sustainable transport option.

Policy DM14 (Transport by Road) seeks to ensure the highway network is of an adequate standard for use by traffic generated by the development, the arrangements for site access and traffic generated would not have an unacceptable impact on highway safety and ensure a travel plan is in place.

Policy DM15 (Flooding and Flood Risk) seeks to ensure that development is located on land with the lowest probability of flooding and the development should avoid, and wherever possible, reduce flood risk.

Policy DM16 (Water Resources) sets out the requirement that development should not have an unacceptable impact on surface or ground water.

38. South Kesteven Core Strategy (SKCS) (2010)

In line with paragraph 215 of the NPPF, due weight should be given to relevant policies within the Plan according to their degree of consistency with the policies of the NPPF. The following policies are of relevance to this application:

Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy sets) out the settlement hierarchy and seeks to restrict countryside development as follows:

- B. agriculture, forestry or equine development; and
- C. rural diversification projects.

In all cases planning permission will only be granted on a less sustainable site where it has been proven that there are no other more sustainable options available or there are other overriding material considerations.

Policy SP3 (Sustainable Integrated Transport) recognises that development which is necessary in rural areas may only be accessible by motor vehicles and seeks to secure transport statements and travel plans where appropriate and requires the preparation of transport assessments for all developments that are likely to have significant transport implications.

Policy EN1 (Protection and Enhancement of the Character of the District) seeks development appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated.

Policy EN2 (Reducing the Risk of Flooding) draws attention to the South Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and states that a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) must be submitted with planning applications as required by the SFRA. On-site attenuation and infiltration will be required as part of any new development wherever possible.

Policy EN3 (Renewable Energy Generation) states that planning permission will be granted for proposals to generate energy from renewable sources, subject to the proposals according with the other Core Strategy policies, national guidance and complying with the following criteria:-

The proposal can be connected efficiently to existing national grid infrastructure and that the proposal should make provision for mitigation of the real emissions/impacts arising from the installation of the renewable energy generation.

Policy EN4 (Sustainable Construction and Design) directs that proposals for new development should consider and demonstrate how the design of buildings and site layouts use energy, water, minerals, materials and other natural resources appropriately, efficiently and with care and take account of the effects of climate change in accordance with other core strategy policies.

Policy E1 (Employment Development) acknowledges that Outside Local Service Centres, rural diversification proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that it is necessary to meet the needs of farming, forestry, recreation, tourism or other enterprises and has an essential requirement for a rural location. Such proposals would need to demonstrate that they will help to support or regenerate a sustainable rural economy.

Emerging Local Plan Context

39. Draft Site Locations Document (Preferred Site and Areas) of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (December 2015)

Between 4 December 2015 and 29 January 2016 consultation on a draft version of this document took place. The document sets out the preferred sites and areas for future minerals and waste development to be taken forward as well as those not to be taken forward to the next stage of plan preparation.

The proposal site has not been promoted as a preferred site however this document is at an early stage of preparation and therefore, in line with paragraph 216 of the NPPF, has little weight in the determination of planning applications. Furthermore, although the site may not be allocated this does not necessarily mean that the proposal is unacceptable as the proposal needs to be considered in terms of its compliance with the locational criteria and policies as contained within the CSDMP (June 2016).

Results of Consultation and Publicity

40. (a) Great Gonerby Parish Council - has some reservations about the location and lack of surrounding features to obscure or blend in the proposal. It is stated that the colours of the development should be camouflaged (green/brown) to lessen the impact. It is stated that the photomontages provided by the applicant are not useful as the impact of the development cannot be gauged and therefore larger ones are requested.
- (b) Environment Agency (EA) - has no objection to the application as submitted but recommended that the lagoons are double lined with a leak detection facility. In addition requested that an Informative be attached relating to the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.
- (c) Tree & Woodland Officer (Lincolnshire County Council) - has no objection.

- (d) Historic Environment Officer (Lincolnshire County Council) - reported that Archaeological evaluation by geophysical survey and trial trenching has been undertaken in the areas of proposed ground disturbance. Archaeological features have been found across the site, including those of Iron Age and Roman period date. There is therefore surviving archaeology which would be impacted by development.

The Officer recommends that if permission is granted there be a programme of archaeological work, the specification for which should be approved prior to commencement of the development and following approval there should be a requirement of ten days' notice before commencement of groundworks.

- (e) Upper Witham Drainage Board - following discussions with the Internal Drainage Board and the submission of the revised details relating to the layout of the site, discharge rates and landscape planting the Board does not object subject to a surface water discharge rate of 16.3 litres per second. The Board refers the applicant to the Board's Byelaws with regard to written consent for temporary or permanent works or structure in, under or within 6m of the top of the bank of a Board maintained watercourse. This advice could be appropriately dealt with by way of an Informative on any planning permission granted.
- (f) Highway Authority & Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) - does not wish to object to this planning application.
- (g) Highways England - offered no objection.
- (h) Western Power Distribution - provided information of the location of their assets in relation to the proposed development and included an informative relating to safe-working. This advice could be appropriately dealt with by way of an Informative on any planning permission granted.
- (i) Environmental Health Officer (South Kesteven District Council) – has reviewed the noise assessment submitted in support of the application and confirmed that given the predicted noise levels arising from the plant they have no objection to the proposal.
- (j) Marston Parish Council (adjoining Parish) – has stated that despite claims made by the applicant, the Parish Council was not previously contacted/consulted on the proposals prior to the application being made. Specific comments and queries received in relation to the proposals are summarised as follows:
- Where does the input, agricultural waste/rye/maize, come from? Do the applicants have farmers ready to supply and what radius do they expect their supply to come from?
 - Concerns over increased HGV traffic through Marston and increase in the number of vehicles accessing and leaving the A1 at the Toll Bar Road junction.

- Concern that villagers may experience unpleasant smells. The prevailing wind would take the smell towards Wyndham Garden Hotel, Wagtail Fisheries Leisure Park and the Toll Bar Road area.
- Concern about noise levels and commented that regular monitoring of the noise levels at Harlaxton Engineering and Wagtail Fisheries should be considered.

41. The following bodies/persons were notified/consulted on the application on 3 February 2016 and again on 1 April 2016 following the receipt of further information from the applicant. No response/comments had been received within the statutory consultation period or by the time this report was prepared:

Local County Council Members, Councillors R Wootten and P Wood
Public Rights of Way (Lincolnshire County Council)

42. The application has been publicised by notice posted at the site and in the local press (Grantham Journal on Friday 12 February 2016) and one letter of notification was sent to the nearest neighbour. Four responses had been received at the time that this report was written. The respondents were consulted again following the submission of further details on 1 April 2016. The comments received are summarised as follows:

- An increase in traffic on the approach road off the B1174 will have health and safety impacts on the existing users.
- Do not object in principle to the proposed anaerobic digestion plant but consider an access directly off the A1 slip road would be a safer alternative and advise that the proposed access route is owned by a third party.
- Object to the application on the grounds of the close proximity of the proposed site to the village of Marston which is in direct prevailing wind line and therefore increases a risk of odour.
- Vehicles routing to the plant through Marston village and along Toll Bar Road will contribute to further damage to verges and cause pot-holes.

District Council's Recommendations

43. South Kesteven District Council has no objection subject to the implementation of adequate screening, noise, ecological impact and odour mitigating measures as set out in the various relevant technical reports submitted with the application and also ensuring that adequate measures are put in place to prevent contamination of the site.

Conclusions

44. The key issues to be considered in relation to this application are the principle of the development in this location, landscape and visual impacts, noise and odour impacts, highways, flood risk, nature conservation and the historic environment.

Need and Location

45. Policy W1 of the CSDMP directs the Waste Planning Authority, through the Site Locations document, to identify locations for a range of new or extended waste management facilities within Lincolnshire where these are necessary to meet the predicted capacity gaps for waste arisings in the County. The proposed development would use a mixture of feedstocks including agricultural manures and slurries for which there is not a specific capacity gap identified. This is because traditionally such wastes have been managed through existing practices of land-spreading and therefore are not classed as a controlled waste. As a result of this, although it is at an early stage of preparation the emerging Site Locations document does identify potential areas for anaerobic digestion plants. However, sites such as this one which is not one of the preferred areas for an AD plant need to be considered in terms of their compliance with the locational and environmental criteria set out in the adopted CSDMP – in particular Policies W3 and W5.
46. Policy W3 of the CSDMP recognises that it may not be possible to locate anaerobic digestion facilities in and around main urban areas and so consequently advises that such facilities should be considered against the criteria in Policy W5. Policy W5 identifies the locational criteria that would need to be met in assessing new proposals for anaerobic digestion plants and states that facilities should be located:
- at a suitable stand-off distance from any sensitive receptors; and
 - be located on land which constitutes previously developed land and/or contaminated land, existing planned industrial/employment land or redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages; or
 - land associated with an existing agricultural, livestock, food processing or waste management use where it has been demonstrated that there are close links with that use.
47. In this case, the proposal site is not located close to any sensitive receptors or residential properties and would be constructed on an existing agricultural field identified as Land Classification Grade 3b. A number of objectors have expressed concern regarding the source of the feedstocks especially with regard to vehicles travelling long distances delivering farm waste, however, it is stated that the proposed feedstocks would all be sourced from farms within a 10 miles radius of the site and similarly the final digestate produced would be spread back on the same land and within local area, which is largely arable in nature. In addition the loss of 5.54 hectares of agricultural land which is not defined as the Best and Most Versatile does not conflict with the requirements of Policy DM12 or paragraph 112 of the NPPF. Given this, in terms of location, in principle, the development is considered acceptable and would not conflict with the locational criteria set out in Policy W5. However, notwithstanding the above, in order to be acceptable the development must also demonstrate compliance with all the relevant Development Management Policies contained within the plan.

Sustainable Development

48. Policy DM2 of CSDMP states that proposals for waste management developments should be sited in locations which would reduce distances travelled by HCVs and also which would contribute towards moving waste up the Waste Hierarchy and which support renewable energy generation. In this instance, the source of the feedstocks and end-use application of final digestate would take place within a relatively small radius of the site and the biogas produced by the plant would be directly inputted into the National Grid network where it would be recovered to produce energy for use elsewhere. SKCS Policy 3 supports renewable energy generation that can be connected efficiently to existing National Grid infrastructure and so the proposed development would be in line with the principles of the NPPF, NPPW and support the aims and objectives of the cited policies of the CSDMP and SKCS.

Landscape and Visual Impacts

49. The NPPF, NPP and PPG together with Policy DM6 of the CSDMP states that due regard should be given to the likely impact of a proposed development on landscape, including landscape character. These aims and objectives are reiterated in Policy EN1 of the SKCS which seeks to protect and enhance the character of the District to ensure that the design and layout of new development takes into account the impacts on the surrounding area.
50. Great Gonerby Parish Council has expressed concern regarding the location of the development given the lack of surrounding features and suggested the use of camouflage (green/brown) colours in order to lessen the impact. A Landscape and Visual Assessment has been submitted with this application and this document is supported by a landscaping plan that proposes to enhance existing perimeter planting and provide additional planting of native species hedges and trees to ameliorate the ground level views, from public viewpoints. Overall the visual impact is considered minimal given the proximity of the site to the A1 and in relation to the Industrial developments on Toll Bar Road less than 1 kilometre to the northwest and the Agricultural Dealership and Industrial buildings on the access route less than 1 kilometre to the southeast. The impacts of the domes of the tanks, the only structures of a height exceeding that of the proposed landscape mitigation, are of a grey colour that would recede into the skyscape, when seen from the distance of the nearest public viewpoint on Green Lane approximately 750 metres to the northeast. The proposed design and mitigation measures are considered acceptable and would help to soften the visual impact of the development on the local area. South Kesteven District Council has confirmed they have no objection to the proposal provided the proposed landscaping is implemented in full and so subject to suitable conditions which require these works to be carried out, it is considered that the proposed development would not have significant detrimental visual impact on the landscape characteristics and would neither compromise nor conflict with the policies of CSDMP and SKCS.

Odour/Air Quality and Noise

51. As indicated above, Policy W5 of the CSDMP directs that there should be a suitable 'stand-off' distance from any sensitive receptors. In the case of this application, potential sensitive receptors have been identified and taken into account within the supporting air quality, odour and noise assessments.
52. The odour and air quality assessments identified six potential sensitive receptors one being residential and the remainder being either commercial or leisure facilities. These assessments all conclude that given the nature of the operations and management practices implemented on the site, along with the distance between the development and these receptors, the development would not have a significant impact. The Environment Agency has confirmed that they have no objection to the proposal but has advised that as part of any Environmental Permit application the applicant would be required to carry out further assessments for odour and the management of odour and therefore these would add further controls or conditions on the operations.
53. In terms of noise, comments have been received from local residents and Marston Parish Council expressing concern regarding the potential for noise nuisance arising from the proposed development. The original noise assessment submitted with the application identified a single sensitive receptor however the location of the residential property was in close proximity to the A1 and between a 24 hour Service Station and a large cold store and logistics compound. As a consequence the recorded noise levels at a point equi-distance from the A1 gave an average background reading of 52dB(A) with the calculated combined rating for the equipment at the site being 26dB(A). Whilst the results of the survey were noted, following discussions between Officers and the applicant, a further noise assessment was carried out to assess the potential impacts of noise on a potential sensitive receptor located approximately 1 kilometre to the east of the site which, given its location has the potential to have a radically different noise climate to that previously assessed. The noise readings recorded at this location recorded an average night time background noise level of 26dB(A), however, the predicted noise levels arising from the development would fall below this. The Environmental Health Officer has confirmed that the noise assessment and its conclusions are acceptable and so the proposed operations at the site are unlikely to have a significant noise impact on either sensitive receptors.
54. It is therefore considered that the proposed development would conform to the aims of the NPPF, NPPW and PPG and be in line with the objectives identified in Policy DM3 of CSDMP and would neither conflict with nor compromise Policy EN3 of SKCS which seeks to mitigate the emissions/ impacts arising from the installation of the proposed development.

Transport and Hours of Operation

55. The proposed development is located on land to the east of the A1 and is proposed to be accessed off a private road (remnant of the old A1 Great North

Road) which connects the site at the B1174 junction with the A1 at Gonerby Moor. The private access route is in excess of 1 kilometre in length. The operational traffic movements associated with this proposal would be wholly in respect of the delivery of feedstocks, distribution of digestate and associated with site maintenance activities as the biogas product would be directly injected to the nearby National Grid network.

56. Concerns have been raised by Marston Parish Council regarding the routes proposed to be used by HCVs with particular reference to Toll Bar Road approximately 850 metres to the northwest of the site at its junction with the A1. The Highways Officer has, however, confirmed that the highway network, including the B1174 and junctions with the A1, is sufficient to support the proposed vehicular movements associated with the development. Highways England has also not objected to the application despite the fact the private access route runs adjacent to the southbound slip road of the A1. In terms of the private access road, this is in the ownership of a third party and they have been appropriately notified by the applicant when making the application (e.g. through the issue of a Certificate B) and have also been consulted directly on the proposals by the Waste Planning Authority. The third party has made a representation and suggested that the use of their private road as a means of access would not be appropriate and so have suggested that an alternative access be provided from the A1 slip road. Whilst these comments are noted, the application needs to be considered on its own merits and the provision of such an alternative access is not part of this proposal. The grant of planning permission is not dependent on land ownership and therefore the applicant's lack of ownership or control over the private access road is not relevant in considering the acceptability of this proposal. As indicated above, no objections have been raised by the Highway Authority or Highways England and so from a highway safety and capacity perspective the use of this road is acceptable. Consequently, from a planning perspective the development is acceptable and so it would be incumbent upon the applicant to secure the necessary agreement of the landowner to use their access via a civil agreement. Should this not be possible, then an alternative arrangement may need to be found but this would be subject to a further planning application.
57. Overall, it is therefore concluded that the proposed development would not have an adverse impact on highway safety or highway capacity and given the proximity to the source of feedstock and distribution of digestate product would not unduly contribute to climate change through vehicular movements. As a result the proposed development accords with the NPPF, NPPW, Policies DM2, DM13, DM14 of the CSDMP and Policy SP3 of the SKCS.

Flood Risk and Water Resources

58. The application site is located within Flood Zone 1 but the site is identified on the Environment Agency Surface Water Flooding Maps as at very low to high risk of surface water flooding across the whole of the site. In addition the site abuts the Toll Bar Drain managed by Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board (IDB). Policy EN2 of SKCS draws applicants' attention to the South Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and requires the submission of a

Flood Risk Assessment and consequently a Flood Risk Assessment has been submitted with the application. Policy EN2 also requires on site attenuation and infiltration to be addressed as part of new development. The application is supported with a Drainage Plan and Surface Water Management Schedule to ensure maintenance of the drainage system. Following discussions with the applicant and the IDB the site layout has been adjusted to allow a minimum 6 metre buffer between structures on site and the top of the Toll Bar Drain bank. The proposed screen planting would also fall outside of the buffer. The proposed discharge rate from the proposed surface water lagoon has also been agreed with the IDB at 16.3 litres/second/hectare.

59. The Highways Officer, on behalf of the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, has raised no objections to the proposal and the Environment Agency (EA) has not raised any objection to the proposed development in relation to flood risk. The EA has however referred the applicant to the Water Resources Regulations and advised that the site must be constructed on an impermeable surface with secondary containment to control the contents of the digestion tanks and silage storage. In addition the EA has recommended that the lagoons are double lined with a leak detection facility. The site would also be subject to additional controls and conditions imposed by an Environmental Permit and so rather than duplicate these controls it is recommended that these advisory comments be appropriately deal with by way of an Informative on any permission granted.
60. Overall the proposed development is therefore considered to be acceptable and would accord with the aims and objectives of the NPPF and Policies DM15 and DM16 of the CSDMP and Policies EN2 and EN4 of the SKCS.

Ecology

61. Whilst the site falls within 2 kilometres of a SSSI, Allington Meadows is located to the west of the A1 corridor and as a consequence is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development. Overall the site itself is considered to be of negligible ecological value and there is no evidence of resident protected species. However, given the nature of the open arable landscape there is potential for the site to support ground nesting birds and so a condition is recommended to be imposed to ensure that no ground or vegetation clearance takes place during the bird nesting season.
62. The existing trees and hedges are to be retained and the proposed landscape scheme would enhance the ecological value of the site through the planting of new hedges and trees of native species. It is also recommended that the installation of bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes to the mature trees forming the site boundaries would afford further ecological enhancement.
63. Subject to the imposition of suitable conditions, overall the proposed development is therefore considered to be acceptable and would accord with the aims and objectives of the NPPF and Policy DM9 of the CSDMP and Policy EN1 of the SKCS which seek to protect, and wherever possible, enhance the natural environment and conservation interests.

Historic Environment

64. The application was supported by an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and following discussions with the Historic Environment Officer and in line with the recommendations of the applicant's archaeologists, a geophysical survey of the site was carried out along with a scheme of trial trenching. An Interim Statement setting out the results of the trenching has been submitted which, in the opinion of the Historic Environment Officer, indicates archaeological features including those of Iron Age and Roman Period date. As a consequence it is recommended that any remaining archaeology which currently survives on this site be recorded prior to its destruction and so it is recommended that a planning condition be imposed which would secure a programme of archaeological work and require its implementation during all construction works.
65. Subject to the imposition of that condition, overall the proposed development is considered to be acceptable and would accord with the aims and objectives of the NPPF and Policy DM4 of the CSDMP and Policy EN1 of the SKCS which seeks to protect heritage assets and their settings and ensure the impacts are fully assessed.

Human Rights Implications

66. The proposed development has been considered against Human Rights implications especially with regard to Article 8 – right to respect for private and family life and Protocol 1, Article 1 – protection of property and balancing the public interest and well – being of the community within these rights and the Council has had due regard to its public sector equality duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Final Conclusions

67. The principle of the proposed development, given its proximity to the source of feedstock and receiving farms of the digestate products, together with the remoteness of the site from residential properties and good access to the highways networks, is acceptable. Overall, it is concluded that, subject to the imposition of the recommended conditions, the proposed development would not have adverse impacts on the surrounding environment, highway and other land users and would not conflict with the provision of the NPPF, the CSDMP or the South Kesteven Core Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission. Written notification of the date of

commencement shall be sent to the Waste Planning Authority within seven days of such commencement.

2. The development hereby permitted shall only be carried out in accordance with the following documents and plans unless otherwise modified by the conditions attached to this planning permission or by details subsequently approved pursuant to those conditions. The approved plans and documents are as follows:

Documents – all date stamped received 29 December 2015 unless otherwise stated.

- Design and Access/Planning Statement: Proposed Anaerobic Digestion Plant Land East of A1, Gonerby Moor, Lincolnshire dated December 2015
- Odour Assessment dated December 2015 (ref: 1021-2r2)
- Air Quality Assessment dated December 2015 (Ref: 1121-1r3)
- Transport Statement dated November 2015 (Ref: jgv/150/45/TS/v1)
- Ecological Appraisal Report: Proposed 'Moor Bio-Energy' Anaerobic Digester Plant dated December 2015
- Proposed Landscaping Scheme (Job No. 20181)
- Flood Risk Assessment & Surface Water Drainage Strategy (Job No. 20181) as supplemented by the addendum letter from Plandescil dated 15 April 2016 (date stamped received 19 April 2016)
- Noise Impact Assessment dated November 2015 (REC Ref: AC100340-1R0) as supplemented by the addendum letter from REC dated 23 March 2016 (date stamped received 30 March 2016)

Drawings – all date stamped received 29 December 2015 unless otherwise stated.

- Drawing No. 20181/151 Rev A: Proposed Redline Boundary
 - Drawing No. 20181/802 Rev C: Proposed Site Plan Showing Schematic Drainage Layout' (date stamped received 19 April 2016)
 - Drawing No. 20181/004 Rev J: Proposed Site Layout (date stamped received 19 April 2016)
 - Drawing No. 20181/005 Rev E – 'Proposed Site Layout and Access Route' (date stamped received 19 April 2016)
 - Drawing No. 20181/006 Rev A: Elevations and Details Sheet 1 of 2
 - Drawing No. 20181/007 Rev A: Elevations and Details Sheet 2 of 2
 - Drawing No. 20181/010 Rev B: Proposed Site Elevations (date stamped received 18 April 2016)
 - Drawing No. 20181/901 Rev A: Proposed Landscape Scheme Appendix A (date stamped received 19 April 2016)
3. The feedstock materials shall be restricted to strawed and chipped farm yard manures and energy crops.

4. The total tonnage of waste processed at the application site shall not exceed 33,000 tonnes per annum. All waste brought to the site shall be weighed at the site's weighbridge. The weighbridge records shall be retained for at least two years and be available for inspection by the Waste Planning Authority upon request.
5. No development shall take place until a scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Waste Planning Authority. The scheme shall include the following:
 - (i) (a) assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these);
(b) methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording;
(c) provision for site analysis;
(d) provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records;
(e) provision for archive deposition; and
(f) nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work; and
 - (ii) The archaeological site work must be undertaken only in full accordance with the approved written scheme referred to in the above Condition 5(i). The applicant will notify the Waste Planning Authority of the intention to commence at least ten days before the start of archaeological work in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements. No variation shall take place without prior consent of the Waste Planning Authority; and
 - (iii) A report of the archaeologist's findings shall be submitted to the Waste Planning Authority within 3 months of the works hereby given consent being commenced unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Waste Planning Authority; and the condition shall not be discharged until the archive of all archaeological work undertaken hitherto has been deposited with the County Museum Service, or another public depository willing to receive it.
6. No development shall take place until an odour management plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Waste Planning Authority. The odour management plan shall include details of:
 - (i) odour control measures relating to the 'Odour Sources' as identified in Chapter 3 of the approved Report Ref: 1021-2r2 – 'Odour Assessment' (received 29 December 2015); and
 - (ii) an odour monitoring scheme, detailing how, where and when odour will be measured, who will be responsible and how results will be assessed;

The approved odour management plan shall be implemented in full for the duration of the development.
7. No development shall take place until details including a plan identifying the locations and specification of the bat roost boxes and bird boxes recommended in the approved Ecological Appraisal Report (cited in Condition

- 2) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Waste Planning Authority. The boxes shall thereafter be erected in accordance with the approved details within a period of 12 months beginning with the date on which development is commenced.
8. No ground clearance works shall be undertaken between March and September, inclusive unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Waste Planning Authority. If these works cannot be undertaken outside this time, they should be evaluated and checked for breeding birds by an appropriately qualified ecologist and if appropriate, an exclusion zone set up. No work shall be undertaken within the exclusion zone until birds and any dependent young have vacated the area.
 9. In the first available planting season following commencement of the development, the landscaping scheme as detailed within the approved document 'Proposed Landscaping Scheme' and shown on Drawing No. 20181/901 Rev A: Proposed Landscape Scheme Appendix A (cited in Condition 2) shall be carried out and implemented in full. All trees, shrubs and hedges shall thereafter be adequately maintained and all losses shall be made good for the lifetime of the development.
 10. Notwithstanding the details submitted and approved in condition 6 above, the Mississippi Paddle Dryer air purification system identified in the approved Report Ref: 1021-2r2 – 'Odour Assessment' (received 29 December 2015) shall be maintained for the duration of the development.
 11. The level of noise arising from the operations on the site shall not exceed those identified in the approved Noise Impact Assessment and addendum letter from REC dated 23 March 2016 (date stamped received 30 March 2016).
 12. The discharge rate from the Attenuation Pond identified on approved Drawing No. 20181/802 Rev C: Proposed Site Plan Showing Schematic Drainage Layout shall not exceed 16.3 litres/second/hectare.
 13. All vehicles, plant and machinery shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specification at all times, and shall be fitted with and use effective silencers. Any breakdown or malfunction of silencing equipment or screening shall be treated as an emergency and should be dealt with immediately. Where a repair cannot be undertaken within a reasonable period, the equipment affected should be taken out of service.
 14. The material stored in the silage clamps shall not exceed the height of 5 metres.
 15. There shall be no external lighting of the site.
 16. No gas product shall be exported from site except by direct input to the National Grid Network at the site boundary.

17. The access road shall be maintained in a good state of repair and kept clean of mud and other debris.
18. All HCVs leaving the site carrying digestate shall be sealed to prevent the escape of odour in transit.

Reasons

1. To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
2. To ensure that the development is carried out in an acceptable manner and for avoidance of doubt as to the development that is permitted.
- 3, 4 & 16
To correspond with the source and volume of waste feedstock materials for which planning permission was applied and to limit the scale of the operations in the interest of the amenity of the area.
5. To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site.
- 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 & 18
In the interests of general and visual amenity.
7. & 8.
In the interest of the natural environment.
12. To safeguard against surface water flooding.
17. In the interest of highways safety.

Informatives

Attention is drawn to:

- (i) Natural England:
Standing Advice 'Construction near protected wildlife' - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/construction-near-protected-areas-and-wildlife>
- (ii) Upper Witham Drainage Board: E-mail ref UD-2560-2016-PLN dated 4 May 2016 relating to Consent Procedure - <http://upperwitham-idb.gov.uk/policy-procedures/consent-procedure/>
- (iii) Environment Agency:
See attached letter ref AN/2016/123202/01-L01 dated 12 February 2016 relating to Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

- (iv) Western Power Distribution:
See attached letter ref 8477662 dated 13 May 2016 relating to Safe Working Procedures.
- (v) In dealing with this application the Waste Planning Authority has worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner by processing the application efficiently so as to prevent any unnecessary delay. This approach ensures the application is handled in a positive way to foster the delivery of sustainable development and is consistent with the requirements of paragraphs 186 and 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Appendix

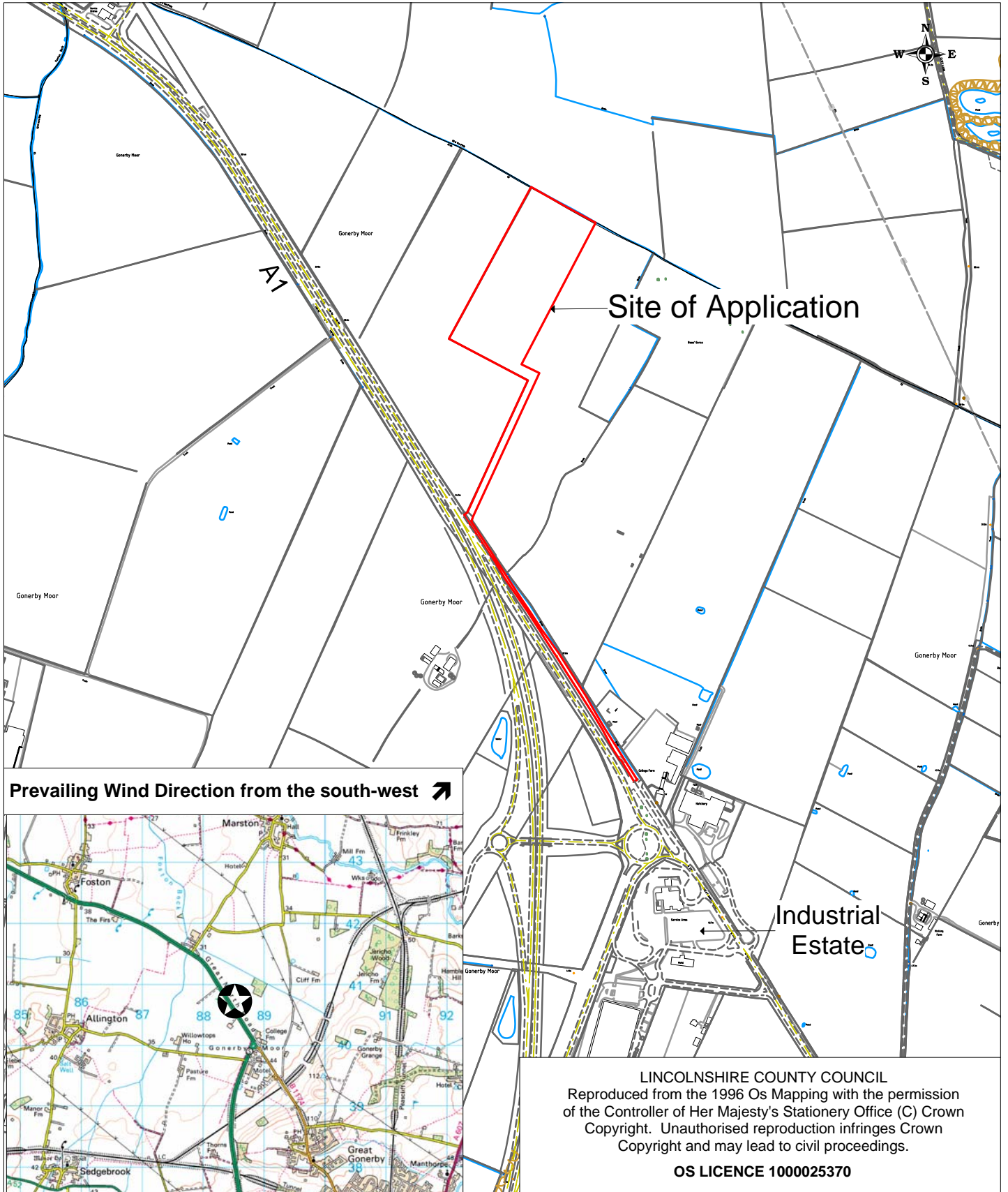
These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Committee Plan

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Planning Application File S37/0354/16	Lincolnshire County Council, Planning, Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) Planning Policy Guidance (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	The Government's website www.gov.uk
South Kesteven Adopted Core Strategy (2010)	South Kesteven District Council's website www.southkesteven.gov.uk
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2016) Draft Site Locations Document (Preferred Site and Areas) (December 2015)	Lincolnshire County Council's website www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

This report was written by Felicity Webber, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or dev_pcg@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Prevailing Wind Direction from the south-west ↗



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OS LICENCE 100025370

Location:
 Land east of A1
 Gonerby Moor

Description:

Erection of a gas to grid anaerobic digestion plant to comprise 3 digestion tanks, 3 silage clamps, technical operations building, storage lagoons, digestate storage lagoon, surface water attenuation lagoon, CHP unit, gas cooling grid, gas storage tanks, paddle dryer and ancillary equipment

Application No: S37/0354/16

Scale: 1:10 000

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